



**Open Space Committee
Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room
January 25, 2018
Minutes**

Present: Wendy Richter, Kelsey Cowen, David White, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ann LeRoy, Brian Kelder, John Pickle

Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis, Elena Bartholomew, Jane Auger, Nat Strosberg

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Minutes: The minutes from December 14, 2017 were approved

2017 OSC Annual Report submitted to Planning Dept. for Town Report

Ann prepared and submitted the OSC annual report. The report was circulated to the committee via email for comment.

Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces

The group discussed the process for continued development and rollout of the next phase of the Take A Walk project. In particular we discussed some of the pros and cons of developing digital versus paper maps for other parts of town to compliment the existing East Arlington map. Wendy expressed some concern that we may be focusing too much on the digital format and that a paper map is still important. There was general agreement that both digital and paper options will be important and will potentially reach different audiences.

Kelsey pointed out that there was a considerable amount of time and effort in Adobe Illustrator to finalize the East Arlington paper map after it was exported from the GIS system. Elisabeth is comfortable working with Illustrator and might be able to help through that phase if it becomes a bottleneck with the town GIS resources. Kelsey will spend some time working in GIS to figure out the proper scale for the next paper maps so they can match the East Arlington scale. We will try to find out how to add that frame to the GIS data set to help plan the extent of the next paper map.

David suggested that we should include the Great Meadows and its trail system in one of our Arlington Heights maps.

Side note: Ann informed the committee that the Town Counsel is reviewing town open spaces and discovered that the Reservoir is not listed under Article 97 despite the fact that most people thought it was. He is conferring with the state agency responsible for these protections.

Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022) – Tracking System

Brian is wondering whether the tracking system we are trying to implement is too complicated to be effective and is discouraging people from submitting projects. Consensus was that it is somewhat daunting and is probably discouraging people from adding things. From here forward we will attempt to simplify. Rather than asking people to add and file things in google drive, they can just fill out whatever fields they can on the form and send it and any pertinent files/links to Brian. Brian will file in google drive. Everyone will still

have access to the drive files for reference but will not need to deal with the filing tasks which have proven to be too complicated.

Picture Post (John)

The ground is frozen!!

OSC Communications

- There have not been any developments regarding updates to the OSC website with the picture post article or the ACMi interviews.
- No update on Facebook status since Jane was absent

Stormwater

This item was not on the agenda, but there was some discussion of stormwater issues including some examples of projects in town that have focused on improving on-site infiltration and stormwater systems. Many private ways in town have no catch basins and can cause serious runoff issues. These sites present opportunities for improvement. One example project is on Cedar and Hawthorne where neighbors organized to reduce roadway in a large intersection. Another is a DPW project to shrink the intersection on/near Herbert and Edgerton.

Sustainable Arlington is concerned about stormwater issues, and the DPW is also studying the situation across town.

Updates on CPA Projects

- **Wellington Park** – Project initial abutters info meeting on January 24. Many of the abutters did not seem impressed by the idea of a linear park due to privacy concerns, but some seemed to like it. Weston and Sampson (consultants) seemed to do a good job engaging people that were both for and against the project and letting people air their concerns
- **Robbins Farm** – The project is technically finished. Stone dust path is complete. The fence will remain around the fields for the entire winter – possibly all next year to allow grass to establish
- **Reservoir** – phase 1 will consist of pump house and water system upgrades plus a pilot trail upgrade.
- **Historic Resources inventory** - CPA and MHC project to update town inventory of historic buildings. Proposing adding 135 properties to the list in phase 1.

Ecofest

OSC will have a table at the event on March 24, and John will have Picture Post info available.

2018 Meeting Dates: February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July and August TBD, Sept 27, October 25, November 15, December 13